



GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

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Preparedness and Planning

Public Health Emergency Exercise Toolkit

The Columbia University School of Nursing has released a [Public Health Emergency Exercise Toolkit: Planning, Designing, Conducting, and Evaluating](#). This toolkit is intended to guide local public health agency staff in (1) developing, implementing, and evaluating emergency drills and exercises, and (2) facilitating the public health aspects of larger, multi-agency emergency exercise events. The toolkit provides essential guidance including templates, checklists, and forms to assist with every stage of the exercise process. Emphasis is on identification of objectives during the planning phase, a critical step for ensuring a meaningful post-exercise evaluation.

Receiving, Distributing, and Dispensing SNS Assets

The Strategic National Stockpile Guide has been updated to Version 10.02. One chapter, Security Support (7), received a major rewrite. The most current copy of the Guide can be downloaded from the [DSNS Extranet site](#). As there are no links to the Extranet site from other internet sites, you will need to remember or bookmark this address for access.

A Practical Examination of the SNS

The Maxwell School of Syracuse University states that "the question of an American public health crisis is not if, but when." Federal, state, and local governments have worked diligently to institute preparedness mechanisms to address a pandemic. This [report](#) presents an evaluation of the Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), a national source of medical supplies available for public health emergencies.



NIMS Resource Inventory Management System (NIMS-RIMS)

The NIMS Integration Center (NIC) is supporting the development of a database management tool for federal, state, local and tribal officials, which will be available to them at no cost. The software will allow emergency responders to enter typed resources and select specific resources for mutual aid purposes based upon mission requirements, capability of resources, and response time. The NIMS-RIMS tool will be rolled out to the emergency response community in phases. Phase One will provide the basic database management tool to enter a community's 120 typed resources into a common database, which can be shared nationally and housed locally. Future system functionality will assist in placing and mobilizing resource requests, GPS tracking of resources, and resource recovery.

News

Avian Influenza H5 and N1 Found in Michigan Birds

Routine surveillance has indicated the presence of H5 and N1 avian influenza subtypes in samples from two wild mute swans in Michigan. Testing has ruled out the possibility of this being the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain that has spread through birds in Asia, Europe and Africa. See page 3 for more information.

MDCH Releases Pandemic Planning Update 1

In late July 2006, the Michigan Department of Community Health released Pandemic Planning Update 1, which details Michigan's pandemic status and MDCH preparedness activities for spring/summer 2006. See page 2 for more information.

Events

MDCH to Launch New Preparedness Website

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) will be launching a new preparedness website in September 2006. This site will contain important information on family preparedness and biological, chemical, radiological, and natural/severe weather emergencies. TV and radio public service announcements are under development and will be used to market the new preparedness website to the general public. The website is a State of Michigan inter-department initiative. Contributors include MDCH, MDA, MDEQ, MDNR, and MSP-EMD.

Next *Guardian* Issue:
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MI Volunteer Registry

The MI Volunteer Registry is an internet-based system enabling healthcare personnel and citizens to pre-register to volunteer their assistance during an emergency. During an emergency, volunteer information will be gathered and appropriate volunteers contacted by authorized personnel. There are approximately 800 volunteers registered from the state of Michigan and border state counties. To register go to the [MI Volunteer Registry website](http://MIVolunteerRegistry.org). You may also visit the MDCH's [Office of Public Health Preparedness's website](#) for more information. Additional help is available by contacting help-mivolunteerregistry@michigan.gov or phoning (866) 636-6324.



Exercises

Palisades Nuclear Power Plant Exercise

On August 16 there was a drill of the Radiation Emergency Plan for the [Palisades Nuclear Power Plant](#). The State Emergency Operations Center was fully activated. The Emergency Operations Centers in Van Buren, Berrien, and Allegan Counties were also fully-activated. The exercise went well: two mock protective action orders for potassium iodide were issued. The next drill is scheduled for September 6. The full-scale exercise of the Palisades plan, which will be evaluated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, will be held on September 19.

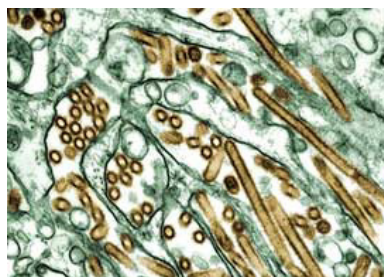
Communications Exercise

On August 16, the Office of Public Health Preparedness initiated an exercise to test communication channels in the state. OPHP staff sent an alert via the Michigan Health Alert Network to the forty-five local health departments. The health departments were asked to disseminate an [avian influenza brochure](#) to their local hospitals, long-term care facilities, emergency management coordinators, and physicians.

Pandemic

MDCH Pandemic Planning Update 1

Unprecedented research, public/private collaborations, community planning summits and inter-agency/organizational cooperative efforts continue to occur all over Michigan for pandemic preparedness. In late July 2006, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) released its [Pandemic Planning Update 1](#). This document contains the most recent information on Michigan's pandemic status and MDCH preparedness activities for spring/summer 2006. The avian influenza A (H5N1) virus continues to circulate in poultry and some



wild birds in Asia, Eurasia, Africa and Europe. No humans have acquired the infection in this area of the world, confirming the virus still does not have the ability to spread easily among humans. This is despite the concern raised with a family cluster of avian influenza H5N1 in Sumatra, Indonesia, in which a woman transmitted infection to six other family members after she had close contact with infected poultry.

Roche Releases New Pandemic Planning Guide for U.S.-Based Businesses

Roche has released a comprehensive guide to help facilitate pandemic influenza planning among U.S.-based businesses, many of which are not yet fully prepared for the potential public health crisis and its impact on their organizations, according to several recent surveys. The new, 70-page online [toolkit](#) provides information and practical advice in response to questions posed by business managers about the avian flu threat in general, and the role of antivirals, in particular. Roche manufactures Tamiflu®.

Communications

Getting America Really Ready

The Federation of American Scientists launched [ReallyReady.org](#), a comprehensive [emergency preparedness website](#). Modeled after the Department of Homeland Security's Ready.gov that supposedly addresses the inaccuracies and incomplete information on the DHS site.

Surveillance

Confirmatory Tests Being Conducted On Michigan Wild Bird Samples

The U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior [announced](#) that routine surveillance has indicated the presence of H5 and N1 avian influenza subtypes in samples from two wild mute swans in Michigan, but testing has ruled out the possibility of this being the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain that has spread through birds in Asia, Europe and Africa. Test results thus far indicate this is low pathogenicity avian influenza, which poses no threat to human health. The confirmatory testing underway at the USDA's National Veterinary Services laboratories will clarify whether one or more strains of the virus are present, the specific subtype, as well as pathogenicity. These results are expected within two weeks and will be made public when completed.



Hospital Preparedness

Health Centers and Hurricane Katrina Report

After Katrina, the conventional wisdom about our public health system is being rewritten. The National Association of Community Health Centers has recently released a report titled, "[Health Centers and Hurricane Katrina: One Year Later](#)". In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Community Health Centers answered the complex and immediate health care needs of communities torn apart by a multi-state disaster. They dispensed medications to those who fled their homes without them, gave counseling to the distraught, and addressed chronic health needs that unchecked would have led to even greater sickness and potential death. It was a defining moment: health centers provided evacuees with the primary care available nowhere else. The lessons of the Gulf Coast make clear that health centers, and the preventive care in which they specialize, are critical to disaster response.

Training & Education

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Sep. 11-15, 2006	<u>Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) for Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI) Train-the-Trainer Course</u> This course is designed to provide guidance to hospitals, EMS, health care facility personnel and others who may become involved in a mass casualty incident as a result of a hazardous materials incident or weapons of mass destruction event. For questions call Mr. Ron Freeman at (323) 757-0716, (323) 823-0856, or email Mr. Freeman at hertii@earthlink.net.	Noble Training Center 490 Care Drive Ft. McClellan, AL (256) 240-7500
Sep. 19-20, 2006	<u>Pandemic Influenza Workshop</u> The Institute of Medicine's Forum on Microbial Threats will host a public workshop on "Ethical and Legal Considerations in Mitigating Pandemic Disease."	Washington, D.C.
Oct. 22-25, 2006	<u>NPHIC Conference</u> This conference will cover: preparing for a pandemic influenza, identifying and working with special populations, effective use of news media in health communications, the role of public relations in communications and organizational management, and "hot button" topics of current interest.	Portland, OR
Nov. 3-5, 2006	<u>Clinical Vaccinology Course</u> This course will focus on new developments and concerns related to use of vaccines in pediatric, adolescent, and adult populations. Information regarding the preliminary program, registration, and hotel accommodations is available online. For more information, e-mail idcourse@nfid.org or telephone (301) 656-0003, ext. 19.	Crowne Plaza Atlanta-Buckhead Atlanta, GA
Online – Self Study	<u>Bioterrorism Preparedness Training for Pharmacists</u> This training <u>course</u> is offered by the Paris (IL) Community Hospital/Family Medical Center along with the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy, Western Illinois AHEC, and SIU Telehealth Networks and Programs. There is no advertised charge for the training, which includes all educational materials. Space is limited, and advanced <u>registration</u> is required. You can also register via email at: pharce@uic.edu. For more information, call the Western Illinois Area Health Education Center at (217) 223-0452.	Online
Online – Self Study	<u>Providence Journal Hurricane Series</u> The Providence Journal has published a <u>six-part series</u> examining the strengths and weaknesses of the state's hurricane plan and offering advice on how to prepare for natural disasters. Topics include power, communications, evacuation, shelters, and response.	Online

Regional News

Region 6: Isabella County's Community Emergency Response Team Training

Basic CERT training involves eight hours of instruction on such things as search and rescue and the psychological impact of disasters. Participants also receive eight hours of first aid training. Isabella County's program, in its second year, completed its second training class in January. Of the total participants, 70 are continuing with monthly classes to expand their training.

Other News

DHS Recommends Security Patch for Windows Operating Systems

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is recommending that Windows Operating Systems users apply Microsoft security patch MS06-040 as quickly as possible. This security patch is designed to protect against a vulnerability that, if exploited, could enable an attacker to remotely take control of an affected system and install programs, view, change, or delete data, and create new accounts with full user rights.

Distinguishing Potential Hoax Materials from Bioterror Agents

Researchers at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR) are developing a quick, cost-effective way to screen for and identify bioterror agents and other substances used in hoax incidents. The testing method identifies and quantifies compounds, quickly and with a very high degree of accuracy, based on the structure and chemical properties of their molecules.



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